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Congruence Between Race and Ethnicity Reported on Infant Death Certificates and the Matching Live Birth Certificates: North Carolina, 2002–2006

by

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Abstract

This report compares race and ethnicity of the mother reported on the live birth certificates with race and ethnicity of the decedent reported on the matching infant death certificates. Infant mortality rates are calculated using mother's race and ethnicity from the birth certificate and compared to infant mortality rates calculated using race and ethnicity from the infant death certificate. The infant death rates for Hispanics and Asians are one-fifth and one-fourth larger, respectively, when using the mother's race/ethnicity from the matching birth certificate rather than the infant's race/ethnicity from the death certificate. Tabulations of infant death rates by race and ethnicity (especially for smaller racial/ethnic groups) should use the mother's race and ethnicity from the matching birth certificate for the numerator, which are likely to be more accurate since they are self-reported.



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